cohesion

Grand Valley's 1st Alternative Newspaper

IF YOU DON'T READ THIS WE'LL BRING BACK WRT 305!

- *Arizona runs out of iced-tea, A2*
- ♜ *C7*
- *Nietzsche destroys God. Rob Bell destroys Hell in response, E3*
- *53% of Michigan residents stay due to probation, F2*

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Cohesion is a wholly democratic publication to promote creativity on the Grand Valley Campus.

Want to promote your student organization? Want to write an article for us? Have an opinion piece? Want to respond to an article you read? Email us at *CohesionGV@gmail.com*

COHESION WARNING:
While reading, you may feel warm, your lips may tingle, your mouth may taste metallic, and you may feel like you're peeing yourself, but don't worry: you're not. Cohesion is not responsible for the disaster in Japan, but we are responsible for the radiation to your brain. Feel the waves man, feel the waves.

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DEAR COHESION

Dear Cohesion,

How do you feel about implants?

Love, Em

Dear Em,

How do we feel about implants? With our hands! But seriously, "Grab a Boob Day" violates personal space: we don't condone it. Really, we say go for implants. I mean, it's cheaper to invest in yourself than to pay your tuition. Hey, no, we're kidding again: T. Haas wouldn't let Governor Snyder do that. And that's why you can afford implants! Or better yet, go expose yourself in Japan. I mean, radiation is less of a risk than water under your skin. Besides, that's what you're doing tanning yourself into Wonkaland. Really, we're not going to say no, as long as you're not spending all your time and money on an empty shell (although rumor has it, if you turn your A's into C's, you can turn your C's into A's).

Little Sister

REALIST HOROSCOPES

(with installment of recent changes to Zodiac signs)

Reed Bramble

CAPRICORN *(Jan. 20 - Feb. 16):*
Today, you will realize that the only reason that you meet the 45 hours of GVSU's suggested study hours per week is that you spend 42 of those hours pretending to do homework. At least you can tell your parents you were trying when your scholarship money suddenly disappears.

AQUARIUS *(Feb. 17 - March 11):*
Just because the weather is nice, that doesn't mean your superior cornhole abilities will magically come back after a couple of seasons of remission. Sure, the boards are too waxy, the bags are a little lop-sided, you weren't used to throwing from that angle. We understand.

PISCES *(March 12 - Apr. 18):*
Today, while perusing through your Netflix possibilities, you notice that all six seasons of Lost have been added to Instant Watch. It's amazing how quickly the quality of your ten-page paper due this week can diminish. At least you will get to find out who "the Others" are. Or will you?

ARIES *(Apr. 19 - May 13):*
To prevent the loss of your left eye this evening, partake in the following steps. 1) Convince the two gentlemen drinking Oberon at the party that smashing beer bottles on the ground for pleasure is not a good idea. 2) If Step 1 fails, leave the room that they will be smashing the bottles in. 3) If Step 2 fails, hide behind the right side of the counter, because the beer bottle will ricochet and smash on the left side. 4) No, your other right. I'm pretty sure they sell eye-patches at the dollar store. Arghhhh!

TAURUS *(May 14 - June 21):*
Little did you realize that the $20 you donated online to your friend's mission trip fund would result in receiving a call every day for the rest of your life from the university sponsoring the mission trip. It's a good thing they are targeting college students as their primary donors. It's disappointing that your relationship with your friend will soon dissolve.

GEMINI *(June 22 - July 20):*
If one or both of you has a urinary infection, that means you are having too much sex. When your friends are betting on how many times you are going to have sex next weekend, that means you are having too much sex. When your horoscope tells you that you are having too much sex, that means you are having too much sex.

CANCER *(July 21- Aug. 10):*
For the fifty-second time this semester, you will breath in that familiar smell of vomit and stink upon entering your apartment, as this is a continuation of your roommates' obsession with eating fish for lunch. I wouldn't open the grill if I were you; they definitely forgot to clean it again, and nobody wants a cloud of burnt salmon stench in their face. Stanky.

LEO *(Aug. 11- Sept. 16):*
Don't call The Intersection asking if they found your lost phone. They don't have it. There are plenty of reasons not to get drunk at a Mushroomhead concert. And that is why your phone goes straight to voicemail. Time to break out the old Razor.

VIRGO *(Sept. 17 - Oct. 30):*
Today, you will not get a call from your desired employer. That is because, in your excitement, you forgot to write down your phone number on the application. Since you won't get the job, I feel an obligation to also tell you that Meadows Crossing is hiring. Oh, but that's only if you are planning on renewing your lease for the most expensive rate on 48th Ave. Happy job hunting!

LIBRA *(Oct. 31 - Nov. 23):*
Today, Waldo is still missing. Do something about it.

SCORPIO *(Nov. 24 - Nov. 30):*
Today, you realize that you have saved up enough money this week to buy a milkshake! Congratulations! Too bad you do not have enough money to pay for the current gas prices, so you won't be able to drive to Steak n' Shake. Don't worry, I'm sure they will invent teleportation in, like, a year or so.

OPHIUCHUS *(Nov. 30- Dec. 17):*
Later you will watch the Sixth Sense for the first time. You will be so surprised when you find out that Bruce Willis is a ghost.

SAGITTARIUS *(Dec. 17 - Jan. 20):*
The bad news: after two weeks of gluttony, you realize that your enormous stash of string cheese is not so enormous anymore. The good news: now you get to buy the string cheese with the cute animals on the outside. I know you love pandas.

SATIRE

State Legislature Considers New Aid Package: "Michigan Promise: But For Real This Time"

Flakey McRomeo, Wanted Felon

The state legislature announced a new student aid initiative called "The Michigan Promise: But For Real This Time".

The bill will seek to repair the damage done the last time the government of Michigan promised anything.

Governor Snyder was on hand for the bill's photo-op press conference.

"We believe this bill should help. We're totally sorry. This won't be like last time. We in the government really love you. We want to get back together." Governor Snyder told the assembled press corps.

When asked about the "last time" Snyder had this to say: "The last governor needed the money for a major cosmetic mole removal."

Snyder plans to allocate a significant amount of money to the students who put him in office. However, most of this money has been taken from the funding of Institutions of Higher Education.

Public reaction to the bill has been painful hope. As Grand Valley junior Jasper Toles remarks, "We just don't want to get hurt again."

Jesus Returns; Hates Writing 150

Flakey McRomeo, Curling Gold Medalist

The residents of West Michigan, typically referred to as "Bible Humpers," are tremendously excited that their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has returned. He has been spotted attending classes alongside students, and blessing Advisors and teachers, who Mr. Christ has taken to calling "The Sick" and "The Poor in Spirit" respectively.

"I can't believe Jesus is back! Wooo! I like, totally love God and stuff <sic>" a slightly overweight member of a fraternity sporting a sideways hat told Cohesion.

The risen Lord is not similarly pleased.

"I don't have any real friends. Everyone wants to hang out because I'm Jesus and because I can turn water to wine. Classes suck. I get low marks in Writing 150 because I write in 'overly simple sentences.' Whatever. They're powerful. I am who I am, you know? There's a reason The Bible has been around for so long: everyone can understand it."

Christ recently changed his major from Writing to Interpretive Dance and hopes to use this art method as an outlet to write a sequel to the Bible.

Man Stuck in Roundabout Faces a Turn of Fate

Little Sister, Clumsy Voyeur

Police investigated the cause of a peculiar state of affairs at Cherry and Jefferson in downtown Grand Rapids on Saturday.

Officers were forced to immobilize a vehicle after receiving calls that it had been circling the roundabout for at least a half hour.

"I was just concerned for the ozone," claims Vern Walters, the Grand Haven resident who reported the mysterious activity. "I could care less about the driver—the guy was clearly out of his mind—but Mother Nature doesn't deserve the abuse."

Upon halting the blue Pontiac, Officer Sam Parks, the responding officer, approached the driver's window where he noted the driver to be in duress.

"He was wearing a straitjacket," Parks remarks. "13 years on the job and I've never seen anything like this in my life."

The subject was taken to Sparrow Hospital where he was given a full medical examination. Officials refuse to comment on the results of the tests, but Parks regards his appearance upon waking to be abnormal.

"He was definately (this is a college paper, there must by typos) loopy. I don't think he muttered anything comprehensible and I'm not even sure if English was his first language."

Medical examiners are retaining the patient until relatives can be contacted upon which future decisions will be left up to the next of kin.

New Library to Include Paperless Bathrooms

Little Sister, non-practicing nun

Following several complaints about "rancid urinals" in the Padnos "waterless" bathrooms and the recent uprising over the switch from Egyptian Sandpaper to Papyrus Toilet Tissues, Sleeve Pleaser, Facilities Services Supervisor, announced a new environmental initiative "to minimize both the University's cost and carbon footprint."

"The Mary Idema Pew Library will be forefront on the lawn of Grand Valley," remarks T. Haas. "It's up to us as modern architects to be conscious of our impact on nature." The installment of bidets will be accompanied by the inclusion of free-flowing channels of water, intended to demonstrate environmental awareness of preservation.

The suggestion to utilize water as a commodity in bathrooms was raised by Pierre LeZon in the Padnos International Center. Part of a keen group of French students, who noted the harsh texture of the toilet paper on campus, LeZon suggested an implementation of bidets to "save money, the mess, and Mother Earth."

The community impact of a foreign technology is unpredictable, but Pleaser is confident that this is a step in the right direction.

"Using a bidet will be a new experience for many Lakers, but I think the student body will be open to the idea."

Human/Animal Rights Debate

Mr. Knottingham, Outhouse Plumber

Jesse O'Hare always knew his Labrador retriever, Susan, was special.

"When I saw her at the pound, it was love at first bark" recalls O'Hare.

Susan is a happy, seven-year-old black lab. O'Hare said that their relationship began two years ago and is still going strong.

"All I want is equal rights: the same benefits heterosexual and homosexual couples get."

O'Hare says that his relationship is no different than any other human to human relationship: he goes to work every day, and she's a modern homemaker.

Protesters against O'Hare's case say that he should be jailed for statutory rape because of Susan's age.

Angry protester, Kathleen Jargonsen, a stay-at-home mother of two, exclaims: "Dog years don't count! Besides, that bitch can't even have his kids!"

Other estrogen-crazed stay-at-home-do-nothings are protesting against the couple, claiming Susan to be a prostitute because O'Hare bought Susan.

"The only reason she stays around is because [O'Hare] provides food and shelter. He actually has her on a leash. Poor woman."

An open-forum debate will take place on Friday April 29 at 7pm in 102 Loutit Lecture Hall

GV Switches from Sandpaper to Papyrus

Nick Savory, Definetlee Former GV Columnist

In the wake of the recent struggles in Egypt and Libya, Grand Valley has decided to make a political statement by seeking more neutral companies for the supply of their toilet tissues.

Egyptian Sandpaper, the main distributor of Grand Valley's toilet tissue over the past several decades, funded the political agendas of former Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, and current Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

"The decision to make the switch was certainly not all political, but it defainitely was propelled by the conflict," reveals Scott Leeper, Facilities Services Supervisor. "As the conflict rose, so did the price of sandpaper. We're not taking that sh**! We're trying to save money and our a**es."

Needless to say, the foreign conflicts have defieanetelay rubbed our campus the wrong way.

News for America: Good for Children, Bad for Cannibals

Precious, Condom Tester

Fifty-four-year-old Ugolino Cronus of the Korowai tribe in Papua New Guinea is a snob when it comes to consuming children.

After a recent trip to the United States Capitol building in Washington D.C., where he attended the biannual international Fight for Peace conference, Cronus says that the overall quality of American children has diminished over the past few years.

"I have eaten children from every continent of the world," Cronus admits. "I have never been so disappointed with the quality of the American child ever in my life."

Cronus attributes this decline to children getting more exercise and eating healthier foods. He blames the FDA and their Koality Foodz program for mandating the removal of unnecessary partially-hydrogenated oils and empty carbohydrates from school lunches.

In response to this outrage, Cronus is taking steps to promote fatty foods in elementary school lunchrooms. He is currently working on a campaign called Tasty Kids for a Tastier Future to raise awareness of the sudden increase in the quality of children's food.

Cronus comments, "Parents need to give their kids more processed foods to eat; let them sit inside and watch great American television and play games on the computer. Together, we can improve the overall meat quality of the American child."

Cronus is trying to start a nutritional program, but he needs your help! If you would like to donate, visit www.cannibals4peace.com/tastykidsforatastierfuture (sponsored by Little Debbie and Hostess Snack Cakes). Suggested donation items include Activision's Call of Duty series, DeLonghi: Cool Touch Deep Fryer, and Jersey Shore Season 2.

Have a satire piece you would like to see in our next issue? Send it to us! CohesionGV@gmail.com

FOOD

Cheap and Easy College Eats!

Paolina Barker

Drunken Cupcakes

Difficulty rating: *Senior (for alcohol content)*

What could make cupcakes even better than they already are? Tequila. Though they certainly don't have enough alcohol to get you drunk, the Tequila adds a nice flavor to the cake. This is adapted from a recipe in *Who You Callin' Cupcake?* by Michelle and Vinny Garcia. I was all set to make their recipe for party snacks when I realized that they wanted me to make everything from scratch. Since I have no time for that, I tweaked the recipe taking as many shortcuts as I could. I also went overboard with the food coloring, making the frosting a nice acid green that stained everything that got in its way. When I first made this recipe I made mini cakes, but this recipe would work just as well in a full-sized cupcake tin.

1 Box White Cake Mix
½ Cup Fresh Lime Zest
Juice of Four Limes
1 Cup Tequila
1 Can Ready-Made Buttercream Frosting
Green Food Coloring
Paper Cupcake Liners

Prepare the cake mix according to the instructions on the box. Add in the lime zest to the batter and mix well. Spoon batter into the pan until each liner is about ¾ full. Bake according to instructions on the box. While the cakes are baking, mix 2 tablespoons of lime juice and a few drops of food coloring with the entire can of frosting. Mix well. Mix the rest of the lime juice with the tequila. When the cakes are done, let them cool and douse them heavily with the tequila mixture. Once the liquid is soaked up, frost the cupcakes and enjoy!

APRIL ARTICLES

Talking Politics With James

In our February issue of Cohesion, we highlighted *Students for Concealed Carry on Campus* as our new student organization of the month. Their mission is controversial and we wanted to know what the students and faculty thought about carrying concealed weapons on campus.

We read a biased editorial in a campus publication about this issue and felt as though the club was misrepresented. We contacted James Gallagher, Vice President of the SCCC, and asked him what the facts were on this issue. James offered to write an article as a direct response to the claims made in the publication.

Cohesion does not wish to underrepresent sides of any issue, but instead empower all voices of the student body.

- Andrew J. Wilt and Jason Michalek, Cohesion Editors

It is a bright April Monday morning. Classes are not yet underway. It is 7:15 am and the leaves are still glistening with dew. A girl is dropped off at her dorm by her boyfriend before he returns home. A man catches the key-card entry door before it shuts. He enters the dorm and kills two people. Police arrive 15 minutes later, but just after 9am, a man chains the doors of an engineering hall shut, what happened next would not be tasteful to print.

The previous story is not some scare tactic or exaggerated tale. It is what happened at Virginia Tech. With the crime rates in Montgomery County, Virginia at least four times lower than Ottawa County, how could we expect this to happen? This story is evidence of two things. One: that a seemingly peaceful community can turn in the blink of an eye. And two: that the safety of the past cannot be used as a model for the future when planning for emergencies, it is not realistic. See statistics in the sidebar.

One of the main arguments against guns on campus I hear is that Allendale is a safe place. And for the most part it is. But the people who lived in Montgomery County, Virginia thought their community was safe too. Until Seung-Hui Cho committed the atrocities that resulted in 33 deaths at Virginia Tech. What is disturbing is that, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Statistics from 2005, Ottawa County is a more dangerous than Montgomery. In Montgomery County there were 10 forcible rapes. Ottawa had 140. In Montgomery there were 35 aggravated assaults. Ottawa: 152. To think that Allendale is safe is acceptable, if not misguided. However to use its past to assume anything, is wildly irresponsible. Making the statement: "...Allendale, MI...nothing happens here..." is terribly myopic.

I would like to thank Cohesion for inviting me to write this article. From April 4-8 we held our annual Empty Holster Protest. I would like to thank the many of you who supported the cause, and also the many people who did not, but engaged in discussion with me; I truly appreciate your effort to learn a little about something you may not know a great deal about.

When it comes to controversial issues, some say there are three categories of people; the educated, the opinionated, and those who accept new information. Unfortunately the educated and the opinionated (on either side of the issue) often disagree in conspicuous displays. This is often due to passionate feelings that are frequently perpetuated by misinformation. That being said, I would like to dispel some of the conceptions people have about what my groups, and countless others like it nation-wide, actually advocate for.

When people hear the word “guns” a couple things happen. Not the least of which is that it conjures images of all sorts. This leads people to stop listening to what is being said about guns. People think they know a lot about firearms and crime, when in fact they know only a little, usually based on the less-than-reputable local news shows.

First of all, our mission is not to put guns on campus, as so many people wrongly assume. The thought that goes through heads is that all of a sudden there will be a large influx of guns in classrooms. This is not true. We do not advocate for everyone to carry a firearm. Our mission is much more realistic and prudent. It is that the people who have secured a CPL (concealed pistol license) should be legally able to carry it on campus and in the buildings.

There is a population, in Michigan and elsewhere, that have taken it upon themselves to procure a tool that is a last resort for individuals to defend themselves. We buy five-star crash rated vehicles not because we want to test the rating or set off the airbags, but in the event that the worst happens, we have a much better chance of coming out of a disaster alive. Likewise, concealed pistol licensed people have gone to extra lengths to possess a tool to be used just like airbags, in a worst-case scenario, hoping never to use them. As CPL holders, we have chosen to make our safety our own responsibility. As has been the case time and time again, as peaceful a campus may be, it only takes one person to make it not safe regardless of the area’s crime rate. To think that nothing will ever happen is as ignorant and naive as one can be.

Another argument is that the CPL holder is not qualified to handle high-stress environments and that they could shoot innocent people, or get shot by police themselves. This is a much more realistically based concern. However, this argument is still false. CPL holders take their responsibility very seriously. Every year, firearms are used 2.5 million times to successfully stop crime. In an overwhelming majority of these instances a single shot is never even fired. The mere presence of a firearm is enough to deter the criminal. However, there are times when shots are fired. But the claim that citizens have poor accuracy in times of stress is simply not substantiated by any evidence whatsoever. Fact: about 11% of police shootings kill an innocent civilian – about 2% of shootings by citizens kill an innocent person. The odds of a defensive gun user killing an innocent person are less than 1 in 26,000. For comparison, fact: compared to accidental death from firearms, you are:

-Four times more likely to burn to death
-17 times more likely to be poisoned
-53 times more likely to die in an automobile accident.

These are CDC statistics. I can’t illustrate it any better. CPL holders are not vigilantes; we just have a different perspective: personal protection is important.

The myth that guns on campus will result in more crime is not valid. It has no basis in reality and no evidence. The myth that CPL holders would shoot a person in a disagreement is a hyperbolic claim with no support. The myth that guns do not deter crime has

been proved false in studies, factual accounts, and locales world-wide. The myth that a safe place will always be safe ignores reality and is made by an uninformed populace.

The editorial piece in the Lanthorn on April 7th, 2011 was rampant with misguided and ill-conceived notions based in negligent ignorance. As a newspaper, it would behoove the writers and/or editors to at least perform some research into the issue at hand before forming an uninformed opinion. Whoever wrote the article should be ashamed to have let that editorial go to press. The Lanthorn has for a while been suspect to be a subpar publication, this is the coup de grace.

For more information you can send your e-mails to President@ConcealedCampusGV.org

COHESION WILL SEE YOU IN THE FALL! OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT CAMPUS LIFE NIGHT.

Have a submission? Send it to *CohesionGV@gmail.com*

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